January 5, 2017

DPI-413

Challenges of Democratization

Pippa Norris

Spring 2017

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Research paper (40%) Due by the start of class on Monday 20th March (after spring break) .......... 6
Research paper or consultancy Report (40%) Due by the start of class on Monday 24th April ........ 6

Topics, discussion questions, & required readings ................................................................. 7
Contact Details:

- **Class time:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10.15am to 11.30pm
- **Class place:** Belfer L1 Weil Town Hall (HKS)
- **Shopping:** Friday 20 Jan 2017
- **First class:** Monday 23 Jan 2017
- **Last class:** Monday 24 Apr 2017
- **Total classes:** 22 sessions
- **Professor:** Pippa Norris, McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at Harvard and ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney and Director of the Electoral Integrity Project.
- **Office:** Littauer 110, John F. Kennedy School of Government
- **Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2.00-4.00pm Signup first via: [http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/bobwp](http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/bobwp)
- **Tel:** (617) 495 1475
- **Email:** Pippa_Norris@hks.harvard.edu
- **Web:** [www.pippanorris.com](http://www.pippanorris.com)
- **Class website:** [https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/25885](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/25885)
- **Faculty Assistant:** Patricia Timmons, Littauer-209 617-495-8660 patricia_timmons@hks.harvard.edu
- **Assessment:** Course assignments
- **Methods:** Statistical analysis and illustrative case-studies

Course Synopsis:

This course covers the basic principles, theories, conceptual tools, and comparative methods useful for understanding the challenges of democracy and democratization. Since the early-1970s, successive ‘waves’ of regime change have occurred. The era from the mid-1970s to the 1990’s is widely regarded as a substantial expansion in the third wave of electoral democracies around the globe. More recent developments remain under debate, however; some see a picture of stasis but other observers suggest that liberal democracy is now ‘in retreat’, ‘in decline’ or under threat around the world, including in Western societies. The rise of populist authoritarianism has destabilized established patterns of party competition and threatened liberal ideals and human rights even in many long-standing democracies, including in the United States and Western Europe. Events during the ‘Arab uprisings’ from Tunisia to Syria highlighted a checkered pattern of regime transitions and the challenge of building stable and peaceful nation-states and effective governance in the region. Elsewhere around the world many states have also experienced only partial or unstable steps towards democratic elections, and then reverses, for example in Turkey, Thailand, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, and Venezuela. There are also numerous examples of ‘electoral autocracies’, in states as varied as Singapore, Burma, Russia and Pakistan, which hold multiparty elections but fail to institute the full panoply of human rights and political freedoms. Moreover many autocracies persist – whether one-party states, military-backed dictatorships, autocratic regimes, elitist oligarchies, and absolute monarchies. In many countries, therefore, the prospects of democratization remains deeply flawed, incomplete, or uncertain.

These developments have profound consequences. Advocates argue that democratic governance is a universal human right. Moreover, this type of regime is also believed to have instrumental advantages by helping people live wealthier, healthier, and more secure lives. Effective democratic states elect leaders who are more accountable and thus more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor. In addition, democratic governance is also believed to promote international peace and cooperation among similar types of regimes, reducing the causes of conflict and violence between and within states.

In the light of these arguments, the international development community, multilateral organizations, and national stakeholders have used multiple strategies to support democratic governance. Resources have been devoted to strengthening the capacity of political institutions, notably through encouraging multiparty competitive elections, independent judiciaries, and effective legislatures designed to curb and
counterbalance strong executives, as well as implementing decentralization strategies, anti-corruption drives, and public sector reforms. Democratic assistance has flowed into attempts to foster and expand civic society by nurturing grassroots organizations, advocacy NGOs, human rights watch groups, and the independent news media. And aid has been invested in attempts to expand economic growth, peace-building, and sustainable development, as an indirect route to democratic governance. But critics suggest that these efforts, no matter how well-meaning, have been largely ineffective, international assistance for democratic governance should be reduced, and these resources should be invested in other priorities at home and abroad.

To understand all these debates, Part I provides the foundational overview by establishing analytical concepts and indicators suitable for comparative policy research into democratic governance; Part II considers alternative explanations for the underlying drivers of democratization; Part III debates the constitutional designs most conducive to strengthening processes of democratization; Part IV focuses upon civic society, and the role of political culture, religion and social capital. Part VI examines the consequences of democratic governance for prosperity, welfare and peace.

**Course Objectives:**

The course will sharpen your understanding of the challenges facing democratic governance and also provide insights into the range of practical policy recommendations which could be adopted to strengthen the process of democratic governance.

The course will use a broadly *comparative* methodology incorporating evidence from a wide range of countries worldwide, including developed and developing societies.

There are several hands-on exercises in class introducing you to online resources which can be used to monitor trends and compare countries, generating professional graphics such as maps and charts. This will build your skills and capacities in this area. No prior experience and no statistical package are required but you should bring your laptops to class on these days and we will work in pairs on these exercises.

This class is evaluated through mixed types of assignments, including a standard academic paper and a professional report. There are no prerequisites for taking the class. Some visiting speakers will be arranged and announced during the course of the semester.

**Class website**

The class website is available at [Harvard Canvass](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/25885). This contains all the essential materials for the course, including the online syllabus, essential readings, supplementary bibliography, online linked resources, course calendar, power-point slides, announcements, and other materials. Bookmark this site!
Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment due dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Part I: Foundations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M 23 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction: Roadmap of the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>W 25 Jan</td>
<td>Theoretical frameworks and concepts: classifying regimes</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>M 30 Jan</td>
<td>Concepts, benchmarks and indices: Democracy</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>W 1 Feb</td>
<td>Concepts, benchmarks and indices: Governance</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Part II: Contextual Drivers of Democratization</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M 6 Feb</td>
<td>Explanatory frameworks: regime change and democratic consolidation</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>W 8 Feb</td>
<td>Social determinants</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>M 13 Feb</td>
<td>Economic drivers</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>W 15 Feb</td>
<td>International agencies &amp; democracy assistance</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>W 22 Feb</td>
<td>Civil society, protest politics, and revolution from below</td>
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<td>Part III: Constitution building</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>M 27 Feb</td>
<td>The principles and practices of constitution building</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>W 1 Mar</td>
<td>Elections: free and fair electoral and party laws</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>M 6 Mar</td>
<td>Electoral management and electoral integrity</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>W 8 Mar</td>
<td>Inclusive legislatures and minority representation</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>M 20 Mar</td>
<td>Executive powers: presidential, mixed, or prime ministerial</td>
<td>Research paper</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>W 22 Mar</td>
<td>Decentralizing decision-making to local and federal levels</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>M 27 Mar</td>
<td>Independent media and social networks</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>W 29 Mar</td>
<td>Case study debate: Building constitutions</td>
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<td>Part IV: Strengthening Civic Society</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>M 3 Apr</td>
<td>Culture and democratization</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>W 5 Apr</td>
<td>Religion and democracy</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>W 12 Apr</td>
<td>Social capital and democracy</td>
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<td>Part VI: Consequences of democratic governance</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>M 17 Apr</td>
<td>Conclusions: Impacts on prosperity</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>W 19 Apr</td>
<td>Conclusions: Impacts on poverty and welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>M 24 Apr</td>
<td>Conclusions: Impacts on peace</td>
<td>Final Report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note university holidays: No class will be held on Mon 20th Feb (President’s Day), and during spring break (11th March to 19th March). No class on Monday 10th April, due to a prior engagement. (i) Assignments are due to be handed in at the start of the class on the specified dates.
Required Readings:

Books can be ordered direct from the publishers, or from Amazon.com, and these are also available on reserve at the HKS library.

For the required class readings, article PDFs can be found in the course website under ‘Files’. Further supplementary readings and resources are listed under each week’s topic to help with your research papers.


What are the determinants of democratization? Do the factors that move countries toward democracy also help them refrain from backsliding toward autocracy? This book attempts to answer these questions through a combination of a statistical analysis of social, economic, and international determinants of regime change in 165 countries around the world in 1972–2006, and case study work on nine episodes of democratization occurring in Argentina, Bolivia, Hungary, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, and Uruguay. The findings suggest that democracy is promoted by long-term structural forces such as economic prosperity, but also by peaceful popular uprisings and the institutional setup of authoritarian regimes. In the short-run, however, elite actors may play a key role, particularly through the importance of intra-regime splits. These results have important repercussions both for current theories of democratization and for the international community’s effort in developing policies for democracy promotion.


As illustrated by contemporary constitutional debates in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan, controversy continues to surround the pros and cons of power-sharing institutions. This debate is vital for scholarly research seeking to understand the underlying drivers of democratization, development, and conflict. It is even more important for policymakers concerned with promoting sustainable governance, practical institutional reforms, and durable peace-settlements.

This book has two main aims. The first is to update and refine the theory of consociationalism, originally developed in the late-1960s, to take account of the flood of contemporary developments in power-sharing which have occurred worldwide. This study compares the consequences for democracy of four dimensions of power-sharing regimes: the basic type of electoral system, whether there is a parliamentary or presidential executive, the decentralization of power in unitary or federal states, and the structure and independence of the mass media.

Building on this classification, the study tests the potential advantages and disadvantages of each of these institutions using a wider range of empirical evidence than previous studies.

**Assignments:**

**General points for all assignments:**

- Participants are expected to keep up with the required readings and to attend classes every Monday and Wednesday.
- Late policy: Barring an extraordinary excuse, all late assignments will be marked down a third of a grade (such as from A to A-) for each day following the due date.
- Your assignments are designed to be crafted as evidence-based policy analysis, reflecting the leading research on each topic. Your work needs to be carefully written and supported by direct evidence derived from the available data and from citations to existing research.
- Use effective endnote references citing sources from the peer-reviewed research literature, as suggested from the extensive readings listed in the syllabi and others related publications. Use endnotes to support any contentious claims and to acknowledge any data sources.

**Research paper (40%) Due by the start of class on Monday 20th March (after spring break)**

You can choose to answer one question out of any questions listed in the syllabus from classes 1-14. The paper should be about 2,500 words in length. It should be designed primarily for the research community and structured with standard subheadings as follows.

I. The selected question, the plan of your paper, and the synopsis of your argument
II. Review of the core theoretical debate in the literature
III. Summary of the empirical literature and existing evidence
V. Conclusions and implications
VI. Endnotes: comprehensive list of literature and references used in the paper

The first assignment requires you to develop a core theoretical argument in response to the question, to read widely and provide a thorough and balanced synthesis of the existing research published in journals and books on the topic, to consider what evidence is available from the research to support your claims, and then to summarize the key points and consider their implications in your conclusion. Your ideal template is a research article publishable in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal.

**Research paper or consultancy Report (40%) Due by the start of class on Monday 24th April**

You can choose to write either a second research paper, using the above guidelines. Alternatively you can choose to produce a consultancy report which compares a world region for one of the dimensions of institution-building listed in the syllabus from classes 10-23 (e.g. elections, legislatures, executives, media, etc.) designed for a nominal multilateral client such as IDEA, IFES, OAS, AU, UNDP or World Bank. The report should be about 2,500 words in length. Your report should be structured with subheadings as follows.

I. The selected topic, nominal client, and the executive summary of your report;
II. Summary of why the topic you have selected matters and why this fits the mission of the agency (advocacy);
III. Identify the problem and the range of policy options seeking to address the problem, with their pros and cons, supporting your claims by using evidence from the research literature, secondary sources and cases;
V. Summary of key recommendations and the next steps;
VI. Endnotes: comprehensive list of literature and references used in the report.

Your ideal template is a consultancy report commissioned by an international or regional agency and disseminated for a practitioner readership. It should use graphics and charts to convey the key points.

**Class Participation (20%)**

Finally, the quality of your contributions to the discussions and the short exercises in class will also contribute towards your final grade.
# Topics, discussion questions, & required readings

## Part I: Foundations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Introduction: Road map of the course and discussion exercise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question topic</strong></td>
<td>1a Is there good evidence from public opinion surveys that young people in America and other Western liberal democracies are becoming disillusioned with democracy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required reading</strong></td>
<td>Foa, Roberto Stefan and Yascha Mounk. 2016. ‘The Danger of Deconsolidation: The Democratic Disconnect’ Journal of Democracy 27(3): 5-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voeten, Erik. 2016. WaPo Monkey Cage: &quot;No, people really aren’t turning away from democracy&quot; 9 Dec 2016 and &quot;Its actually older people who have become more cynical about democracy.&quot; 14 Dec 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Classifying regimes and monitoring trends</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Question topics</strong></td>
<td>2a. Has the world been experiencing a democratic recession in recent years? Discuss the evidence for understanding global and regional trends over time.</td>
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<td>2b. Is there evidence of a resurgence of autocracy?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also the debate among other contributors in the special issue in the 2015 Journal of Democracy, 26(1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Online resources</strong></td>
<td>For background information:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of Governance dataset (The QoG Data under ‘Data’)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varieties of Democracy (VDem) <a href="https://www.v-dem.net/">https://www.v-dem.net/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Concepts, benchmarks and indices: Liberal democracy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Question topics</strong></td>
<td>3a. Compare the classification of regimes in one world region according to the Freedom House Index of political rights and civil liberties and the Polity IV scale of autocracy-democracy. Are these reliable, comprehensive, and accurate indices?</td>
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<td>3b. How can democratic regimes and processes of democratization best be measured? How would you seek to improve existing indicators?</td>
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<td>3c. What are the advantages and disadvantages of V-Dem’s method of classifying regimes?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong></td>
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</table>


**Online resources**


International IDEA. *State of Democracy Project*. - [www.idea.int/democracy](http://www.idea.int/democracy)

**Hands on exercise:**

Using the Varieties of Democracy datasets (VDem) [https://www.v-dem.net/](https://www.v-dem.net/) (bring laptops)

**4**

**Concepts, benchmarks and indices: state governance**

**Question topics**

4a. What are advantages and limitations of the World Bank Institute indicators of good governance?

4b. Does democracy deliver better governance performance in Sub-Saharan Africa?

4c. Does governance need to be established prior to democratization? Or is this sequence fallacious?

4d. Has the growth of international rankings of states encouraged more evidence-based policy-making or led to poorer policy processes?

**Required Reading**


Apaza, Carmen R. 2009. ‘Measuring governance and corruption through the worldwide governance indicators: Critiques, responses, and ongoing scholarly discussion.’ *PS-Political Science & Politics.* 42(1): 139-143. DOI: 10.1017/S1049096509090106


**Online resources and hands-on exercise**

Using Quality of Governance Institute, Sweden. [http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/)

World Bank Governance Indicators [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org)

**5**

**Explanatory frameworks of democratization**

**Question topics**

5a. What explains divergent trajectories of democratization? Select a global region with divergent political trajectories and explain the reasons for the contrasts, using the frameworks provided from your reading.

5b. Compare and evaluate the underlying theoretical assumptions, methodological approaches, evidence, and findings in two of the theories of democratization discussed by Teorell.
5c. “There is, then, an economic basis for the absence of democracy in the Arab world. But it is structural. It has to do with the ways in which oil distorts the state, the market, the class structure, and the entire incentive structure.” Diamond (2010) p. 98. Does evidence support this claim? Do you agree?

### Required Reading


### 6 Social determinants of democratization

#### Question topics

6a. What have been the most important social drivers of democratization since the early-1970s? What are the policy implications for the international community, multinational organizations, and national stakeholders seeking to strengthen democratic governance?

6b. Compare Latin America to assess the relative importance of domestic drivers of democratization, as identified by Teorell.

6c. Is the growth of the middle class (the Lipset thesis) a necessary or sufficient condition for enduring processes of democratization? Discuss illustrating your argument by comparing a global region.

### Required Reading

- Geddes, Barbara. 1999. ‘What do we know about democratization after twenty years?’ *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2: 115-144. DOI: 10.1146/annurev.polisci.2.1.115

### 7 Economic determinants of democratization

#### Question topics

7a. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Przeworski et al. dichotomous measure of regime types for comparing the process of democratization?

7b. Does economic modernization determine sustainable processes of democratization?

7c. How far is the process of democratization determined by economic development, compared with the impact of political institutions and political culture?

### Required Reading


### 8 International agencies and democracy assistance

#### Question topics

8a. What are most effective international drivers in the spread of democratic governance since the early-1970s? What are the implications for the development community?

8b. Compare states in sub-Saharan Africa to assess the relative importance of international drivers of democratization, as discussed by Teorell.
8c. Assess Levitsky and Way’s argument concerning the importance of ‘leverage’ and ‘linkage’ in processes of regime transitions. How would you test their claims?

### Required Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publication Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levitsky, Steven and Lucan A. Way.</td>
<td>Linkage versus leverage: Rethinking the international dimension of regime change</td>
<td><em>Comparative Politics</em>. 38(4): 379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 9 Civil society, protest politics, and revolution

#### Question topics

9a. What is the relative impact of elite divisions ‘from above’ versus mobilization ‘from below’ on regime transitions and democratic consolidation? Discuss using trends in democratization in Central and Eastern Europe or in Latin America during the third wave era to illustrate your arguments.

9b. Under what conditions do elections lead to further democratization – and when and why does this process fail?

### Required Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publication Details</th>
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</table>

### Part III: Constitutional design of state institutions

#### 10 Key principles of constitution building

10a. What is the theory of consociationalism? Is the theory still relevant?

10b. Explain the key advantages and disadvantages of ‘consensus’ or ‘majoritarian’ democracies by comparing and contrasting the constitutional features of two countries exemplifying each type.

10c. “In the most deeply divided societies, like Northern Ireland, majority rule spells majority dictatorship and civil strife rather than democracy. What such societies need is a democratic regime that emphasizes consensus instead of opposition, that includes rather than excludes, and that tries to maximize the size of the ruling majority instead of being satisfied with a bare majority.” (Lijphart). Is this a robust and well-substantiated claim?

10d. What contexts make power-sharing constitutional settlements most likely to fail? What contexts make them most likely to succeed? Discuss and illustrate with two recent cases.

### Required Reading

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<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<th>Publication Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>11a. What are the major advantages and disadvantages of different types of electoral systems for voter turnout, gender equality, and party competition? Discuss the evidence with case illustrations from recent elections held under different rules.</td>
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<td>11b. Are mixed member (combined) electoral systems the best of all possible worlds?</td>
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<td>11c. What types of reforms should be considered to strengthen electoral integrity in America? Discuss by comparing elections in the US with equivalent Western democracies.</td>
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<td>11d. How and why do multilateral agencies differ in the main types of programs of international electoral assistance which they offer?</td>
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<td>11e. How important are structural and international factors in explaining patterns of electoral integrity?</td>
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</table>

**Required Reading**


**Online resources**

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network [http://aceproject.org/](http://aceproject.org/)


The Electoral integrity Project [www.electoralintegrityproject.com](http://www.electoralintegrityproject.com)


**13**

**Elections: Inclusive legislatures and minority representation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question topics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13a. Why have gender quotas for elected office spread so rapidly worldwide?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13b. What legal reforms have proved most effective in contributing towards achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment in elected office?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Reading**


**Online resource**


Inter-Parliamentary Union % Women in elected office [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

### 14

**Democratic Institutions: Executive powers: presidential, mixed and prime ministerial**

**Question topics**

14a. Explain and assess Linz’s claim that presidential government leads to democratic instability by comparing examples of presidential and parliamentary government in either the Americas or in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Required Reading**


### 15

**Decentralizing decision-making to local and federal levels**

**Question topics**

15a. Does decentralizing decision-making to local government help or hinder democratic governance?

15b. Does federalism encourage or deter succession?

**Required Reading**


### 16

**Independent media and social networks**

**Question topics**
16a. What are the ideal roles of the news media as agenda-setters, watchdogs and in the public sphere in the democratization process? What are the primary barriers to achieving these roles?

16b. Is there good evidence of the so-called ‘Twitter’ revolution in the use of social media in processes of collective action and regime transitions, or is this a popular myth?

**Required Reading**


**17**

**Case-study: Building the Libyan and Egyptian constitutions**

**Question topics**

17a. What are the lessons from the Tunisian and Egyptian constitutions for processes of regime transitions and democratization?

17b. What are the lessons for constitution-building in post-conflict states?

**Required Reading**


**Online resources:** [http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/comparing-the-egyptian-constitution/](http://comparativeconstitutionsproject.org/comparing-the-egyptian-constitution/)

Full briefing details will be made available online nearer the date of this class: see the class website

**Part IV: Strengthening civic society**

**18**

**Culture and democratization**

**Question topics**

18a. Is there good evidence supporting Inglehart’s claims of a substantial cultural shift in orientations towards democratic values in affluent societies?

18b. Does the consolidation of democracy require a democratic culture?

**Required Reading**


**Hands-on exercise and resource**

Using the [www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org) (Bring laptops)

**19**

**Religion and democracy**

**Question topics**

19. If secularization has occurred in most post-industrial societies, why not in the case of the United States?

**Required Reading**
### 20 Social Capital and Democracy

**Question topics**

20a. Do you agree that social capital, including dense social networks and rich reservoirs of social trust, help to explain why some democratic governments succeed while others fail? Explain and assess Putnam’s theory.


20c. Do the central claims in Putnam’s theory of social capital hold in cross-cultural perspective?

**Required Reading**


### 21 Conclusions: Democratic governance and economic growth

**Question topics**

21a. Do governance institutions generate economic growth?

**Required Reading**


### 22 Conclusions: Democratic governance, human development & conflict

**Question topics**

22a. Under what conditions, if any, does democratic governance deliver human development outcomes?

22b. Does democratic governance bring a ‘peace dividend’ or increase risks of instability?

**Required Reading**


**For further research resources:**
- For relevant literature always check the online [Social Science Citation Index](http://www.pippanorris.com) via the Harvard University library (under ‘Citation Indices’).